

**Appendix A: Lower Minnesota River Watershed District –Technical Advisory
Committee Planning Development Workshop Summaries**

**Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
5th Generation TAC Meeting
April 8, 2009
Summary Notes**

Goals, Policies, Strategies and Projects

Blue Text = As interpreted from information generated at previous TAC meetings

Red, Italicized Text = Changes, additions and/or subtractions made by TAC in 4/8/09 meeting

Definitions

- Goal - the state of affairs that a plan is intended to achieve and that (when achieved) terminates behavior intended to achieve it
- Policy - a statement on how the authority is to achieve its goals and objectives with regard to a specific subject area or class of subject areas, e.g., a policy for development on floodplains
- Management Strategies – is an elaborate and systematic plan of action designed to achieve a particular goal
- Projects – Specific actions taken to implement management strategies

Water Quantity Goal

- Reduce discharge to the Lower Minnesota River

Water Quantity Policies / Strategies / Projects

Policies

- *Should address:*
 - *Rate control*
 - *Volume control*
 - *Stormwater conservation*

Strategies

- *Promote consistent water quantity standards*

Projects

- *Perform gaps analysis of neighboring watershed district water quantity standards*
- *Incorporate MPCA water quantity standards*
- *Perform gaps analysis of water quantity standards within LMRWD jurisdiction*

Unique Resources and Fish and Wildlife Goals

- Manage, protect and preserve unique, *significant or at-risk resources* and fish and wildlife habitat
- *Manage, protect and preserve floodplain areas including floodplain forests, shallow lakes, Type 7 and IA wetlands and contiguous habitats*

Unique Resources and Fish and Wildlife - Policies/Strategies/Projects

Policies

- Advocate for protection, education and monitoring of fens
- Manage surface and groundwater recharge areas to fens

Strategies

- *Identify data sources and take active role in data management*
- *Provide technical and financial assistance for data acquisition and management*
- Serve as liaison between Mn/DOT, DNR, USFWS and municipalities
- Provide technical assistance and grants for monitoring fens
- Provide education to public and politicians regarding fens
- Manage fen buffers
- Partner with DNR, DOH and municipalities to determine impact of wells on fens

Projects

- Identify and delineate fen recharge areas
- Monitor groundwater for fens
- Fort Snelling fen restoration
- Seminary Fen / fringe wetlands along Bluff Creek

Unique Resources and Fish and Wildlife - Policies/Strategies/Projects

Policies

- Advocate for protection, education and monitoring of sustainable trout streams

Strategies

- *Identify data sources and take active role in data management*
- *Provide technical and financial assistance for data acquisition and management*
- Serve as liaison between Mn/DOT, DNR, USFWS, *National Park Service* and municipalities for trout stream management
- Determine sustainability of existing trout stream classification
- Promote management practices to ensure a healthy ecosystem
- Determine impact of new classification on regulatory requirements for Local MS4s

Projects

- Prioritize, inventory and assess trout streams
- Review and evaluate trout stream management strategies

Unique Resources and Fish and Wildlife - Policies/Strategies/Projects

Policies

- Coordinate with LGUs to identify and develop critical trail and green space corridors for improvement and protection
- Promote the development of natural resources inventories

Strategies

- Create and develop a mechanism for identifying and acquiring high value conservation easements
- Develop written agreements with partnering organizations
- Coordinate completion of inventories among cities and counties
- Provide incentive fund to complete inventories
- Inventory existing projects to identify gaps and validate data

Projects

- MN valley floodplain forest restoration

Unique Resources and Fish and Wildlife - Policies/Strategies/Projects

Policies

- Coordinate with LGUs to identify and develop critical trail and green space corridors for improvement and protection
- Promote the development of natural resources inventories

Strategies

- Create and develop a mechanism for identifying and acquiring high value conservation easements
- Develop written agreements with partnering organizations
- Coordinate completion of inventories among cities and counties
- Provide incentive fund to complete inventories
- Inventory existing projects to identify gaps and validate data

Projects

- MN valley floodplain forest restoration

Unique Resources and Fish and Wildlife - Policies/Strategies/Projects

Policies

- *Advocate and coordinate land acquisition, restoration and education of floodplain forests, shallow lakes, and Type 7 and IA wetlands*
- *Limit fragmentation of contiguous habitats*

Strategies

- *Assist in identification of high quality and/or at-risk habitats*
- *Assist with restoration projects*
- *Assist with land acquisition*

Projects

- *N/A*

Unique Resources and Fish and Wildlife - Policies/Strategies/Projects

Policy

- Protect, preserve and enhance connectivity for wildlife

Strategies

- Encourage wildlife connectivity projects which achieve multiple goals such as improvement of water quality

Projects

- N/A

Unique Resources and Fish and Wildlife Challenges to Implementation

- Jurisdictional
- Property rights
- Capital
- Stormwater runoff temperature for trout stream management

Public Participation, Education and Recreation - Goals

- Enhance public participation, education and recreation

Public Participation, Education and Recreation - Policies/Strategies/Projects

Policy

- Promote recreational uses of the MN River

Strategies

- Collaborate with local LGUs and NGOs on educational and recreational opportunities such as fishing, boating, trail and vegetation management and use of signage
- Acquire easements for additional public access to the MN River
- Coordinate river tour

Project

- Complete connections within trail system from Fort Snelling to the remainder of the system

Public Participation, Education and Recreation - Policies/Strategies/Projects

Policies

- *Promote maintenance of 4-ft channel as mandated by Congress*
- *Enhance recreational river channel access as river water quality improves*

Strategies

- *Partner with other groups to enhance opportunities*
- *Provide recreational activities at dredge material disposal sites*
- *Evaluate channel for opportunities*
- *Support river clean up activities*
- *Naturalize and stabilize river banks*

Project

- *N/A*

Public Participation, Education and Recreation - Policies/Strategies/Projects

Policy

- Coordinate and develop an education plan

Strategies

- Implement an education program cooperatively with partners
- Coordinate education with MS4 communities

Policy

- Actively promote partnering and coordinate opportunities within and outside of the District

Strategies

- Coordinate public awareness recognition of resources with others

Public Ditch System Goal/Policies/Strategies/Project

- Public ditch system does not exist

Ground Water Goals

- *Water quality and quantity*
- *Work with communities to coordinate sustainable groundwater use*
- *Protect natural groundwater discharge for natural community protection*
- *Sharing of and coordination of groundwater data/ monitoring*

Ground Water Policies/Strategies/Projects

Policies

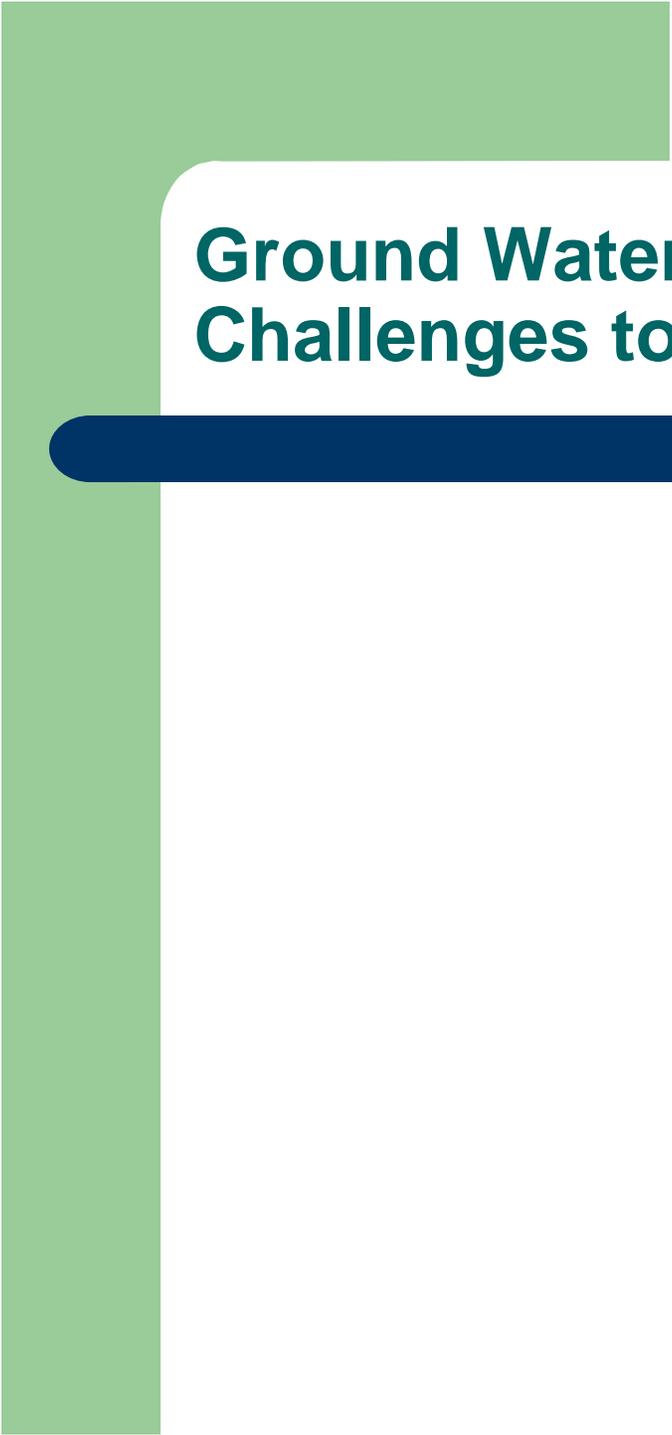
- *N/A*

Strategies

- *Assist groundwater resource protection*
- *Coordinate mapping and identification of discharge, recharge and acquisition areas and points (wells)*
- *Provide education and outreach on water use (i.e. private irrigation audits in Chanhassen)*

Project

- *N/A*



Ground Water Challenges to Implementation



Wetland Goals

- Maintain and enhance wetlands in the Districts

Wetland Policies/Strategies/Projects

Policies

- *Ensure WCA rules are implemented*

Strategies

- *Delegate WCA authority to LGUs*
- *Review WCA notices as received*
- *Require LGU wetland management plans and wetland inventories which include functional assessments and management classification*

Project

- *N/A*

Wetland Policies/Strategies/Projects

Policies

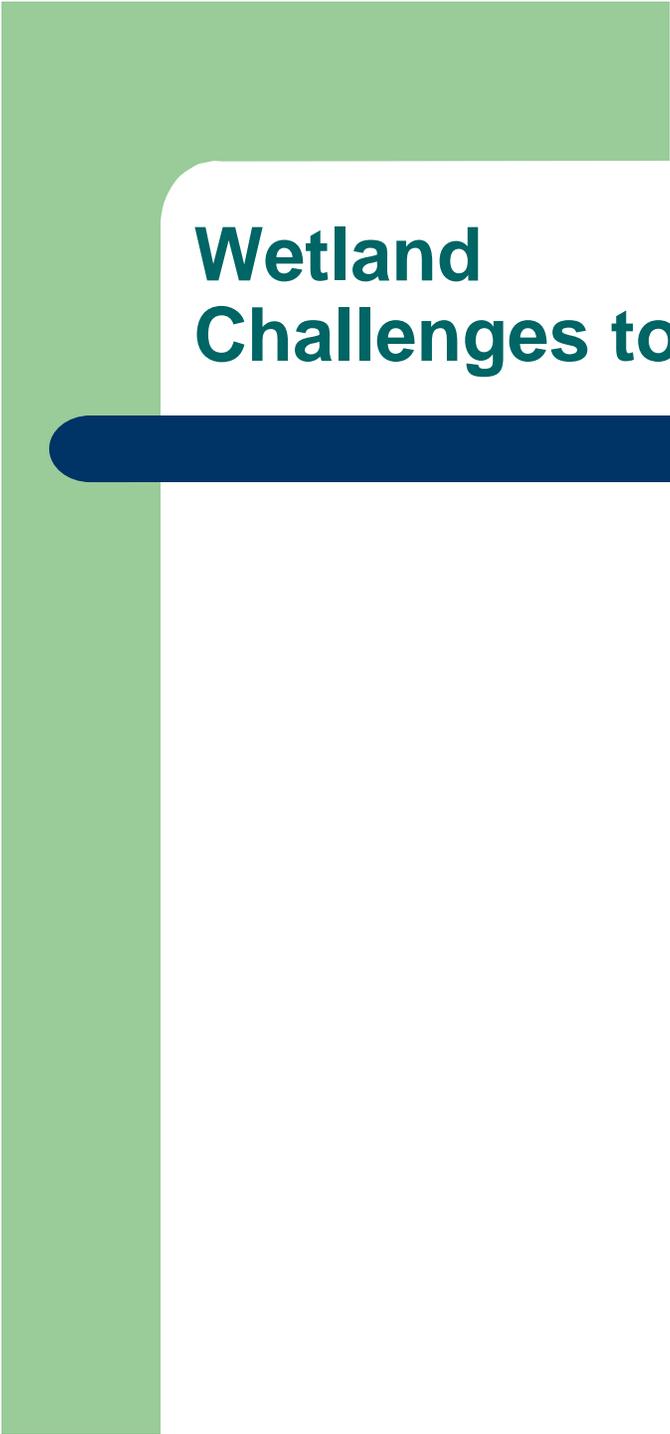
- *Partner with LGUs to improve wetland resources*

Strategies

- *Ensure consistent standards between watersheds*
- *Use inventories to look for enhancement, restoration, restoration or wetland bank opportunities.*

Project

- *N/A*



Wetland Challenges to Implementation



Erosion Goal

- To prevent erosion of soil into surface water systems

Erosion - Policies/Strategies/Projects

Policies

- *Should address*
 - *Construction site erosion*
 - *Stream bank erosion*
 - *Main stem river bank erosion*
 - *Bluff erosion*

Strategies

- *Support cities regarding stream bank, bluff and construction site erosion*
- *Take lead role in main stem river bank erosion*
- *Stream bank strategies:*
 - *Identify problem areas (i.e. current gully inventory)*
 - *Determine causes*
 - *Work w/ homeowners/watershed districts*
 - *Promote buffer strips*
 - *Control rate and volume*

Projects

- *None identified*

Erosion – Challenges to Implementation

- Increased river volumes and flashy nature
- Sediment transport from upstream tributaries
- *Construction site erosion*

Commercial and Recreational Navigation Goal

- Maintain and improve commercial and recreational navigation on the Lower Minnesota River

Commercial and Rec. Navigation - Policies/Strategies/Projects

Policy

- Serve as local sponsor to acquire suitable placement sites for dredge material

Strategies

- Identify additional sites for dredge material storage
- Manage channel and sediment
- Remove dredge material from placement sites
- Develop relationships with contractors, the mining industry and local entities to determine market for dredge material
- Cooperate with MPCA to test and develop beneficial use to market material
- Educate the public on the properties and the beneficial uses of dredge material
- Support the USACE funding for the MN River and ask for congressional fund for developing placement sites

Projects

- *Assist with development* of dredge material management plan
- *Assist with development* of channel maintenance plan

Commercial and Rec. Navigation Challenges to Implementation

- Liability and MPCA
- Pollutant loads
- Funding/transportation costs